

Minutes

Arkansas State Board of Optometry

Conference Call

January 17, 2020

Dr. Bryant Ashley, Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm with all Board members present except Mr. Mickey Gentry. Others present were Dr. Howard Flippin, Board Executive Director, Mr. Kevin O'Dwyer, Board attorney, and Vicki Farmer, Arkansas Optometric Association.

Dr. Ashley opened the meeting with an update on his preparing a clinical exam, and Dr. Ford is working on the jurisprudence exam for implementing Act 579. He reported that Dr. Richard Castillo of Oklahoma College of Optometry and Dr. David Cockrell of the Oklahoma Board of Optometry had offered to assist in the testing process. The dates they are available are February 29, March 21, April 23 and April 26. Those taking the exam will be made aware of the possibility of the Act not being fully enacted.

After some discussion, Dr. Ford made a motion to offer the exam on February 29 and April 23. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

The exam fee was discussed. There is expense in renting meeting space, travel expenses for Drs. Cockrell and Castillo, and testing materials.

Dr. Smalling made a motion to set the exam fee at a maximum of \$250. Dr. Hennessey made a second. The motion passed.

Mr. O'Dwyer reported that rules implementing Act 579 had cleared the Health Department and the Governor's office. There is an appeal to the Supreme Court over its initial ruling that allowed counting of the signatures that would refer the Act to the people in November. There is a time of public comment and a public hearing is scheduled for our February 13, 2020 ASBO meeting. This public hearing could be cancelled if the Supreme Court should rule prior to February 13. Next it would go to the Rules Committee of the Legislative Council.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 pm February 13, 2020 in Room 445 of the Victory Building in Little Rock. The Board will also give Board exams during that meeting.

Dr. Ford made a motion to adjourn. Mr. White made a second. The motion passed.

The conference call adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Dr. Bryant Ashley, President

Dr. Robert W. Smalling, Secretary/Treasurer